



CITY COUNCIL

Public Safety Committee

Monday, January 5, 2009

Agenda

5:00 p.m.

Committee Members: D. Sterner, Chair; S. Marmarou; M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

I. Request to amend Housing Permit Ordinance -

- a. Include "escrow" provision
- b. Require registration of vacant properties including registration fee
- c. To require housing permits for all non-owner occupied properties
- d. Remove "notification" before citation requirement
- e. Provide increased penalty for non-compliance

II. Handicapped Parking

5:30 pm

III. Set Goals for 2009

IV. Review Reports:

- Codes Enforcement
- Crime Stats (Police)
- Fire Report

It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above-stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice.

Public Safety Goals

Goal 1: Coordination of Police, Codes and Zoning Services

Goal 2: Support Problem Oriented Policing

Goal 3: Surveillance Camera Project - underway

Goal 4: Support re-establishment of Canine Unit - complete

Goal 5: Support Consolidation of Fire Departments

Goal 6: Support Update of Emergency & Pandemic Plan (including NIMS Training for all required personnel)

Goal 7: Support Health and Safety Review Ordinances

Goal 8: Amend Disruptive Tenant Ordinance (to remove loop holes and inconsistencies) - complete

Goal 9: Support Cops and Codes Sweeps

Goal 10: Support Implementation of Sidewalk Café and Sales Ordinances

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AMENDING RESOLUTION #134-2002:

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 473-86, the Council of the City of Reading enacted a handicapped parking policy procedure; and

WHEREAS, the population of the City of Reading consists of citizens with numerous handicaps or disabilities, some of whom by reason of their handicap or disability, require reasonable accommodations in order to have the enjoyment of equality of opportunity relating to their public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, discrimination because of a person's handicap or disability is contrary to the laws and policies of the City; and

WHEREAS, the unavailability of residential handicapped parking spaces cause neighborhood tensions, conflicts and similar evils which result in injury to the public safety, health and welfare of the City; and

WHEREAS, the use of such designated handicapped parking space is not permitted to be exclusive to the applicant; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to monitor the applications for and continued use of handicapped parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, the handicapped parking space designation may be established by the City of Reading.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Any resident of the City of Reading, after acquiring a handicapped or disabled veterans license plate or placard from the State, may make application to the City for a handicapped parking space. All applications for original or renewal status will be reviewed by the City Health Officer, who will be the individual responsible for making the final determination on whether or not an individual claiming handicapped status, original or renewal, should be granted a handicapped parking space.

SECTION 2. Any City resident who has been issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania a handicapped license plate or disabled veterans license plate or placard from the State or on whose behalf said license plate has been issued pursuant to Section 1338 of the Vehicle Code because of a handicap or disability, shall be eligible for the installation, in front of or as reasonably close thereto said person's residence, of a sign indicating that parking in such space is restricted to those vehicles bearing handicapped license plates.

SECTION 3. Application for a handicap parking space shall be made on a form provided by the City of Reading Engineering Office. The application information shall include the identity of the handicapped person and said person's place of residence. It shall be accompanied by documentation evidencing issuance of a handicapped plate by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as well as documentation from a licensed physician indicating the nature of the disability necessitating the handicap parking space.

SECTION 4. The term handicap or disability, with respect to a person, means a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities.

SECTION 5. Each application whether for an original permit for a handicapped parking space or for a renewal permit for a handicapped parking space shall contain the information required by the application form and the renewal application form. An incomplete application form or renewal application form shall be grounds for denial of the request for a permit. Applications for renewal permits shall be submitted to the City Health Officer not less than thirty (30) days or more than sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of each one (1) year term.

SECTION 6. Penalties. An individual who submits a false application to the City of Reading shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and costs, or imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days, or both. Each false application submitted to the City of Reading shall constitute a separate offense. No prosecution of any violation of any of the provisions of this chapter may be instituted unless commenced by the filing of a complaint within six months after the date of such alleged violation.

SECTION 7. The criteria set forth for final determination as set forth in Section 3 may be changed from time to time by written directive of the executive branch provided that at least prior thirty (30) days notice thereof shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in and for Berks County.

SECTION 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon enactment.

PASSED COUNCIL _____ 2008

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK